



### From the Editor:

As we round up the month of October, remember that Breast Cancer Awareness and Domestic Violence Awareness are continuing efforts for CHFS. Individuals and families affected by these life-threatening events need our support every day.



Please feel free to contact Patricia Boler with your questions and comments about CHFS Focus. ([patricia.boler@ky.gov](mailto:patricia.boler@ky.gov))

### Information on Open Enrollment on it's way

More information will be available in the next few days. With a cabinet as large as ours, it's very important that we turn in the insurance forms as soon as possible. We encourage you to get the necessary information and turn in the forms as soon as you can to your insurance coordinator to help make this process work.

### DON'T DELAY...ENROLL TODAY!

Open Enrollment: Oct. 25 through Nov. 5

Everyone must enroll. If you do not enroll, you will not have health insurance coverage for 2005.

Go to the Personnel Cabinet's Web site at <http://personnel.ky.gov> > for more detailed information and the 2005 health insurance application. Info will be there by Thursday morning.

In many cases, you will need to print the form from the Personnel Cabinet's Web site. Across Kentucky, application forms will be made available to you at local libraries and retail businesses. You cannot use the old forms that were distributed last month.



Completed application forms MUST be returned to the member's insurance coordinator, who must verify and sign off on the information.

A toll-free hotline has been established to answer questions. The number is 1-888-581-8834. That hotline will be answered weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

### DON'T DELAY...ENROLL TODAY!

Applications will be processed on a first-in/first-out basis.

### 2004 Employees Satisfaction Survey coming soon

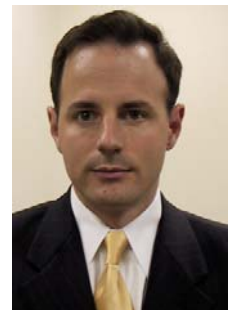
The Office of Human Resource Management will be sending out the Cabinet's 2004 Employee Satisfaction Survey within the next few weeks. This survey is an excellent opportunity for all Cabinet for Health and Family Services' employees to express their opinions about working conditions and other issues. By completing the survey, we will be able to better understand the strengths and weaknesses within the Cabinet and determine improvements as needed.

Participation is voluntary, but employee input is a valuable resource and we strongly urge everyone, including management, to complete the upcoming survey. Responses are completely anonymous.

### Spotlight: Robert Benvenuti

#### Work has always been a focal point for Benvenuti

"I have enjoyed and learned a great deal from every job I have ever had, and I have had a lot of them," says CHFS' Inspector General Robert J. Benvenuti, III. "I have always been fortunate to have found work that was meaningful to me and that enabled me to learn valuable lessons and gain friendships, which I still draw upon today."





His first job was a kennel boy at an animal hospital. "While it might not sound like much, I learned a lot during that time which lasted from the beginning of my freshman year in high school until the day before I left for college," he said. Among other jobs, Benvenuti has been a member of a volunteer first aid and rescue squad, worked for a general contractor and for a county mosquito control office.

Prior to joining CHFS, Benvenuti was an associate with Stites & Harbison PLLC in Lexington specializing in fraud and abuse, health care, statutory and regulatory compliance and corporate investigations. He is also an adjunct professor at the University of Kentucky's College of Law. He holds a JD, MPA with an emphasis on health care administration, and BS in communication from the University of Kentucky. During law school, he was a member of the College of Law's national moot court team and co-authored a medical/legal article published in a leading medical journal.

In addition, Benvenuti has worked at UK's Medical Center as the originating corporate compliance officer and at Central Baptist Hospital in Lexington as a risk manager and assistant administrator. He is also a published author, his work most recently appeared in the Physician's Practice Digest, March/April 2001, "Health Care Fraud and Abuse: Physician Heal Thyself."

Benvenuti and his staff of about 300 hundred are responsible for ensuring regulatory compliance and integrity in programs and facilities that provide health care, child care and related services to Kentucky citizens, as well as protecting CHFS and its programs from fraud, waste, and abuse.

The Office of Inspector General was recently reorganized into five divisions: Health Care Facilities and Services; Regulated Child Care; Special Investigations; Audits and Detection; and Fraud, Waste and Abuse---Identification and Prevention.

"The men and women of OIG are in the exciting, but challenging position of being able to have a direct impact on two issues that are critical to all citizens of the commonwealth -- ensuring safe

health care and child care facilities and services and preventing, detecting, and eliminating waste, fraud and abuse," says Benvenuti. "The fact that both Governor Fletcher and Secretary Holsinger are committed to these issues provides a unique opportunity for our Office to clearly demonstrate our commitment and value to the commonwealth. I have no doubt that we have the quality leadership and staff that will enable us to be a model state agency that others will want to be a part of and emulate."

"Misuse of Kentucky's health and welfare programs cost taxpayers millions of dollars each year. This is patently unacceptable and detection and enforcement must be a high priority," says Benvenuti. "Health and welfare program resources are precious, limited, and in high-demand. The bottom line is that funds obtained through these programs illegally could deprive others who legitimately qualify from receiving much needed assistance."

"The divisions of Special Investigations, Audits and Detection, and Fraud, Waste and Abuse -- Identification and Prevention work extremely hard to protect CHFS and its programs from fraud, waste and abuse and to see that when misconduct is detected it is the wrongdoer, not the commonwealth, that pays the price," he said. "I think the public would be shocked to find out the amount of fraud, waste, and abuse that the folks who staff these divisions prevent and detect each year and the great financial loss that the commonwealth would suffer but for their efforts."

The other critical function of OIG is ensuring regulatory compliance and integrity in programs and facilities that provide health care, child care and related services to Kentucky citizens. "The fact of the matter is that every one of us will, at some time, have direct contact with such facilities and services," says Benvenuti.

With this in mind, it is easy to understand the critical and difficult nature of the work done by the individuals that staff the divisions of Health Care Facilities and Services and Regulated Child Care. These individuals are called upon and must be available to respond to complex and serious issues that relate directly to the health and safety of the citizens of Kentucky 24 hours a day, 365

days a year. "The work done by those who staff these divisions has very significant implications for all of us," he said.

"I am very proud to be a part of OIG and CHFS. I want OIG to be known as a 'can do' and committed agency that is ever mindful of the critical importance of its work. If, at the end of the day, we can say with confidence that we have consistently met our statutory, regulatory, and ethical obligations to the citizens of Kentucky, then we have been successful."

### Spotlight : Division of Personnel Administration

When you get your paycheck on time, notification of an upgrade or approval for using Family Medical Leave to care for your new baby, you have the Division of Personnel Administration to thank. Working with employees and personnel liaisons from Pikeville to Paducah, Franklin to Florence and everywhere in between, this division provides you with a host of services.

Personnel Administration staff review and approve personnel actions, such as promotions, reclassifications and appointments, and provide technical assistance and advice to all employees. They are also responsible for payroll, time and attendance for all CHFS staff. That means they enter changes into the payroll system and work with timekeepers to resolve problems.

Now, add to that their ability to help you apply for Family Medical Leave, Workers Compensation, health insurance and sick-leave sharing, and you'll understand why Cheryl Thompson, Director of the Personnel Administration Division, said, "We have a GREAT staff! They have a positive 'can-do' attitude in accomplishing whatever is required."

The Division of Personnel Administration is part of the Office of Human Resource Management. They administer personnel and payroll services to more than 9,000 CHFS employees statewide.

### Over \$3.5 million in grants awarded to local school initiatives

The U.S. Department of Education, through the No Child Left Behind program, has awarded nine Kentucky school systems and local boards of education with over \$3.5 million in grants to improve health and fight childhood obesity.

"This is a tremendous compliment to these Kentucky school systems because these grants acknowledge outstanding initiatives aimed at helping children across the United States to eat healthy and exercise," said Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher. "The emphasis, on a national level, illustrates that our focus on building a Healthy Kentucky is on the right track here in the Commonwealth."

"President Bush has directed that our schools work to make our children healthier through a new initiative, the 'Schools for a HealthierUS Challenge,'" U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige said. "We can educate our children and keep them healthy. And it only takes the right incentives, some commonsense and a resolute will to make this happen."

The Carol M. White Physical Education Program, part of the No Child Left Behind Act, provides grants to local school districts and community-based organizations to initiate, expand or improve physical education programs, including after-school programs, for students in grades K-12. This year, the program will award a total of 237 new grants nationwide worth nearly \$69 million.

More information about the No Child Left Behind Act is available at [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov).

The nine school systems and the amounts of the individual grants are listed below:

- ◆ Fayette County Public Schools, \$607,424
- ◆ Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children in Louisville, \$568,525
- ◆ Middlesboro Independent Schools, \$468,224
- ◆ Mason County Schools, \$338,787
- ◆ Robertson County Board of Education, \$303,777



- ◆ Union County Board of Education, \$350,100
- ◆ Warren County Public Schools, \$408,447
- ◆ Covington Independent Schools, \$313,173
- ◆ Raceland Worthington Independent Schools, \$235,836

### Health Tip of the week

Allergies in the home – winter months

*By Anne Parr, RN*

In the winter months, when many of us keep doors and windows closed, indoor air pollution increases. Stored firewood may contribute to this. As wood dries it releases mold spores that can quickly contaminate the entire house, creating an environment unfriendly to those with allergies and respiratory illnesses. This winter store only the few pieces of wood that you intend to use immediately in the house.

### Governor and First Lady invite Trick-or-Treaters to the Governor's Mansion on Halloween



Governor Ernie Fletcher and First Lady Glenna Fletcher announced today that all trick-or-treaters are welcome to visit the Governor's Mansion in Frankfort on Halloween night.

Parents are encouraged to bring their little ghosts and goblins to the Governor's Mansion to enjoy the Halloween holiday and view the colorful decorations on Sunday, October 31, 2004, from 4:00 to 7:00 PM.

### Secretary's forums scheduled for November

*By Anya Armes Weber*

It's time again for the secretary's quarterly forums.

Secretary James W. Holsinger will speak to Frankfort staff next month at four forums.

Employees will hear about hot topics relating to the cabinet and will have the chance to ask questions.

Forums will be in the Health Services auditorium and are scheduled as follows:

- ◆ Nov. 1: 1-3 p.m., Supervisors
- ◆ Nov. 3: 1 a.m.-noon, Staff
- ◆ Nov. 3: 2-3 p.m., Staff
- ◆ Nov. 4: 3 p.m. - 4 p.m., Staff

Regional staff can look for forum transcripts online and expect the chance to view a video of the event.

### Halloween week activities for KECC

*By Ann Gordon, KECC Coordinator*

Get out your carving equipment, pick out the perfect pumpkin, and dream up your Halloween costume! It's time for Halloween Week Activities for the Kentucky Employees Charitable Campaign (KECC)!

For Frankfort staff, this year's pumpkin carving contest is being sponsored by the Office of the Inspector General, coordinated by Lori Hill, and the Department for Medicaid Services, coordinated by Noel Harilson. If you are interested in participating, please contact one of them as soon as possible but no later than noon, Monday, Oct. 25th. Pumpkins should be brought to the CHR building lobby by 9 a.m., Wednesday, Oct. 27th for display through Friday, Oct. 29th.

Voting will be Wednesday thru noon Friday for the Scariest Pumpkin and the Most Creative Pumpkin. Prizes will be awarded to the winners in each category. Votes will be 25 cents each. There is no vote limit, so save those quarters for a good cause!

Our Annual Halloween Costume Contest will be on Friday, Oct. 29th. Please contact Karen Harrod in the Office of Fiscal Affairs if you plan to enter. You may enter as an individual or a group. A group should be no larger than five or six individuals; however, approval may be given for larger groups if OK'd by the project coordinator. Entry fee is \$3 per person.





Prizes will be awarded at a noon ceremony in the cafeteria for first, second and third place in each category. A panel of judges will determine these winners.

Help us wrap up our 2004 KECC Campaign by participating in these fun events!

### **Golfers raise more than \$1,200 for KECC**

*By Anya Armes Weber*

At Frankfort's Juniper Hills golf course on Oct. 19, 58 players -- cabinet staff and some of their friends -- raised \$1,250 for the Kentucky Employees Charitable Campaign at the CHFS golf scramble.

Seventeen teams competed, and here are the results:

- ◆ First Place: "Happy Golfers" -- Henry Jury, John Jury, Paul Teater and Johnny Hatfield. Actual 58 - Adjusted 54
  - ◆ Second Place: "Fiduciary Team" -- John Harris, David Boswell, Steve Fisher and Jacob Vanderoot. Actual 61 - Adjusted 58
  - ◆ Third Place\*: 16 -- "3 Men/Little Lady" -- Mary Gaetz, Robert Gaetz, Bobby Carr and Allen Carr) ~ Actual 61 - Adjusted 59
- \*This was a tiebreaker with The Generals --

Rob Hester, Roger Smiley and George Currie.

- ◆ Last Place: Rick Bunch, Bob Camp and Dan Luczak. This team won a group golf lesson and a goodie bag.
- ◆ Men's longest drive: Jim Northern
- ◆ Women's longest drive: Esther Wilhoyte
- ◆ Closest to the pin: Mike McIver
- ◆ Door Prizes were awarded as follows:
- ◆ Nike Putter: Brett Kaiser
- ◆ Executive golf set: John Hatfield
- ◆ Golf ball collector rack: David Boswell

Scramble organizers thank all the participants. Proceeds will be divided and given to Community Health Charities and Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky.

### **Kentucky gets \$3 million award for family assistance program**

Kentucky was recently awarded more than \$3 million for meeting the goals of the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

Kentucky received \$3,083,832 for its version of TANF, the Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (K-TAP), which is administered by the state Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

K-TAP provides members of qualified households with temporary cash assistance, job training and help finding a job.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced the awards earlier this month. Kentucky and 37 states, plus the District of Columbia, received high-performance bonuses, which are for moving clients from state assistance to employment, job retention and increased earnings.

The bonus money will go back into K-TAP programs.

Since September 2003, the cabinet's Department for Community Based Services has received \$17.5 million in performance bonus awards for administration of the K-TAP program.

This is the second high-performance bonus the cabinet has received recently. In September, the U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded the state food stamp program nearly \$2 million for providing customers timely service.

"I continue to be pleased with our staff's commitment to providing quality services," said cabinet Secretary James W. Holsinger, Jr., M.D. "This award shows that we are working together with Kentucky families who need a helping hand toward self-sufficiency."

This August, K-TAP helped 32,249 Kentucky households - including 18,777 adults and 51,529 children.

"K-TAP gives families the tools they need to stabilize themselves during difficult times," said Dr. Eugene Foster, Ed. D, the cabinet's

undersecretary for Child and Family Services.  
“Temporary assistance is all many of them need while they make plans to improve their job skills or further their education.”

For more information about K-TAP eligibility requirements, log onto the cabinet Web site at <http://cfc.ky.gov/help/KTAP.asp>.

### **Employee Enrichment**

By Anya Armes Weber



Employee Enrichment is a weekly feature for CHFS staff. These tips for making work better will focus on team building, customer service and personal development.

If a coworker or customer is asking why an assignment you're helping with has been delayed, a good technique for gaining their cooperation is to keep them informed of why there's a delay and what's happening to resolve it.

Whether there's paperwork missing, approvals pending or another project taking priority, information can help ease customers' minds. They'll be more cooperative if they're not just wondering where they stand with you. Show a willingness to help until you can follow through with completion of the project.

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To view the online version of CHFS Focus, visit our web site at <http://chfs.ky.gov/newsletter>.